



**Bernard C. “Jack” Young**  
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## **Council President Young and Maryland Aging Secretary Announce City’s Plans to Reduce Senior Poverty Through Employment**

*Baltimore participating in national program that moves seniors out of poverty and into  
the workforce*

**BALTIMORE, MD** – City Council President Bernard C. “Jack” Young was joined today by Maryland Secretary of Aging Gloria G. Lawlah, members of the City Council and seniors to announce Baltimore’s participation in the federal government’s Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP.)

SCSEP was created as part of the Older Americans Act as a way to offer subsidized training for low-income adults 55 and older who are unemployed and have poor employment prospects. Participants are placed at a non-profit or government agency that closely matches their desired career goals. Through training assignments, seniors work 20 hours a week and are paid minimum wage. The goal of the program is to help older adults develop workplace skills needed to earn permanent, unsubsidized employment.

“No senior should be forced to live in poverty because of limited employment opportunities,” said Council President Young, who introduced a resolution at tonight’s City Council meeting supporting the program. “Our active seniors have a great deal left to contribute to our society and I’m happy to support a program that works to utilize the knowledge and skills of our older adults.”

Gloria G. Lawlah, Maryland Secretary of Aging said the program helps seniors sharpen their skills as they prepare for 21<sup>st</sup> century careers.

“Through this program, our seniors gain new skills and earn wages that they spend right here in Baltimore,” Secretary Lawlah said.

AARP Maryland state director Henry M. “Hank” Greenberg said that seniors are often a forgotten casualty of the Great Recession.

“The oldest and poorest among us have been most affected by the worst downturn since the Great Depression,” Greenberg said. “Americans 50-plus now have the largest overall increase in long-term unemployment, the longest spells of joblessness and the least likelihood of finding jobs. Without SCSEP, local communities would be hard hit, and their economies put at risk.”

To learn more about Maryland’s SCSEP program please visit <http://www.aging.maryland.gov/SCSEPServices.html> or call the Maryland Department of Aging at 410-767-1100.

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